



COMMONWEALTH BUREAU OF CENSUS AND STATISTICS

SIXTH FLOOR,
PRUDENTIAL BUILDING,
195 NORTH TERRACE,
ADELAIDE

CEREAL HARVEST ESTIMATE

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

SEASON 1966-67

The information given in this bulletin is based on reports from more than 5,000 farmers whose crops exceed 50 per cent of the cereals grown in the State.

SUMMARY OF AREA AND PRODUCTION

Reports in March 1966 indicated that farmers intended to sow approximately 3,050,000 acres of wheat, 1,245,000 acres of barley, and 1,118,000 acres of oats. The latest estimate of areas actually sown is 3,034,000 acres to wheat - a small decrease from the intended area, 1,169,000 acres to barley - approximately 94 per cent of that intended, and 900,000 acres to oats - approximately 81 per cent of that intended.

The estimated yields of wheat, barley, and oats in the 1966-67 harvest are 53,235,000 bushels of wheat at an average of 17.87 bushels per acre, 24,245,000 bushels of barley at an average of 22.00 bushels per acre, and 9,876,000 bushels of oats at an average of 20.88 bushels per acre.

The estimated total yield of wheat, barley and oats in 1966-67 is 87,356,000 bushels, 23,244,000 bushels more than the yield of 64,112,000 bushels in 1965-66 but, 12,751,000 bushels less than the record yield of 100,107,000 bushels in 1960-61.

Estimates indicate that in 1966-67 the yield per acre of wheat is approximately one bushel per acre more than the average of 17.10 bushels obtained during the ten seasons 1956-57 to 1965-66 inclusive. The yield per acre of barley is more than one bushel greater than the ten year average of 20.60 and that for oats approximately five bushels greater than the average for the same period of 15.95.

TABLE 1 - ESTIMATED CEREAL HARVEST, SOUTH AUSTRALIA, 1966-67

Crop	Area		Yield	
	Total Sown	Sown for Grain	Total	Per Acre
	'000 Acres		'000 Bushels	Bushels
Wheat	3,034	2,979	53,235	17.87
Barley	1,169	1,102	24,245	22.00
Oats	900	473	9,876	20.88
Field peas	30	29	377	13.00
			'000 Tons	Tons
Cereal hay	160	-	208	1.30

SEASONAL CONDITIONS

Due to the unusually dry conditions in April farmers were unable to complete seed-bed preparations or commence general seeding. The useful rains early in May allowed seeding to proceed, and with average or above average rainfall in most districts during the following two months seeding, with the exception of a few small areas, was completed by the end of July.

Although rainfall was below average for most areas in August and October, the mild weather during those months and the above average rainfall in September gave favourable growing conditions. The prospects for an above average harvest seemed assured for all areas except the Murray Mallee where conditions had been unfavourable for most of the year.

Favourable finishing conditions early in November followed by warm to hot weather allowed crops to ripen evenly and for harvesting to commence in all but the very late districts. The severe winds towards the end of the month caused little damage and although the heavy rains early in December caused some mottling of grain and delayed harvesting, damage was less than at first anticipated.

The preliminary estimate for average rainfall over agricultural areas for the period April-November 1966 is 10.95 inches. For the same period, the mean for 61 years ended 1965 is 12.77 inches.

CEREAL HARVESTS 1962-63 to 1966-67

Tables 2 and 3 show details of the estimated harvest for crops of wheat, barley, oats, and hay for 1966-67 compared with the actual harvests for the four previous seasons.

TABLE 2 - CEREAL GRAIN : AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	Estimate 1966-67
WHEAT						
Total area sown	'000 acres	2,645	2,849	2,772	2,798	3,034
Area sown for grain	'000 acres	2,595	2,802	2,727	2,745	2,979
Production	'000 bushels	38,339	53,971	52,817	39,976	53,235
Yield per acre	bushel	14.77	19.26	19.37	14.56	17.87
BARLEY						
Total area sown	'000 acres	1,088	1,165	1,135	1,150	1,169
Area sown for grain	'000 acres	1,053	1,123	1,095	1,098	1,102
Production	'000 bushels	18,005	24,337	26,932	18,514	24,245
Yield per acre	bushel	17.10	21.67	24.60	16.86	22.00
OATS						
Total area sown	'000 acres	839	956	951	971	900
Area sown for grain	'000 acres	416	501	444	455	473
Production	'000 bushels	5,770	9,149	8,977	5,622	9,876
Yield per acre	bushel	13.88	18.27	20.23	12.37	20.88

Estimates given in this bulletin of the production of cereal hay relate only to areas specifically sown for the production of hay and the yield from those areas. Additional hay is cut from areas sown for grain, and in most years the total quantity of cereal hay produced has proved to be considerably greater than the estimated quantity shown in these bulletins.

TABLE 3 - CEREAL HAY: AREA AND PRODUCTION, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Particulars	Unit	1962-63	1963-64	1964-65	1965-66	Estimate 1966-67
Area sown	'000 acres	174	196	160	172	160
Production	'000 tons	216	259	229	185	208
Yield per acre	ton	1.24	1.32	1.43	1.07	1.30

FIELD PEAS

It is estimated that the area of field peas planted for grain during the 1966-67 season was 29,000 acres. The estimated yield is 377,000 bushels representing an average of 13.00 bushels per acre. In the 1965-66 season 242,000 bushels were obtained from 30,000 acres. Record production of 633,000 bushels (20.75 bushels per acre) was achieved in 1956-57.

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